

In re: Williams *et al.*
Serial No. 10/662,757
Filed: September 15, 2003
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REMARKS

The Action states that the application contains claims directed to the following inventions, one of which must be elected:

- Group I - Claims 1-45;
- Group II - Claims 46-59; or
- Group III - Claims 60-71.

For purposes of providing a complete reply to the Action, Applicants elect Group I (Claims 1-45) for prosecution on the merits. Furthermore, Applicants elect the species "wherein the polymeric material is non-erodible." Claims 1-10, 13, 15-17, 19-23, 25-40, 43 and 45 are indicated as being generic.

This election is made with traverse, however, because the nature of the subject matter is such that it would enable the Examiner to search the claims of Groups I, II and III together. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that it would not create an undue hardship on the Examiner to search Groups I, II and III together. (See M.P.E.P. § 803).

Claims to the non-elected inventions are withdrawn, without prejudice to the filing of divisional applications thereon. It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for substantive examination, which action is respectfully requested.

If any extension of time for the accompanying response or submission is required, Applicants request that this be considered a petition therefor. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee, which may be required, or credit any refund, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0220.

Respectfully submitted,



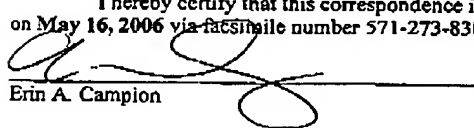
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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
on May 16, 2006 via facsimile number 571-273-8300.


Erin A. Campion